

O 061159Z SEP 99
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9681
INFO ASEAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//FPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 004282

ROME FOR THE VATICAN

HANOI ALSO FOR A/S ROTH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/06/09

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINT](#) [MOPS](#) [UN](#) [PO](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: XANANA GUSMAO TO BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 7

11. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. J. STAPLETON ROY; REASON 1.5(D).

12. (C) SUMMARY. THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO RELEASE XANANA GUSMAO ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7. ALTHOUGH THE INDONESIAN PLAN IS TO RETURN HIM TO EAST TIMOR ON THAT DAY, THE BRITISH (AND WE) CONSIDER THAT COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE AND ARE SEEKING TO ARRANGE HIS RELEASE IN JAKARTA, WHERE HE WILL BE HOUSED WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR. WHAT WILL BE POSSIBLE WILL BE DETERMINED IN MEETINGS LATER ON SEPTEMBER 6. END SUMMARY.

13. (C) ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 6, I MET WITH THE UK AMBASSADOR, THE PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE, AND A MEMBER OF XANANA GUSMAO'S STAFF TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR XANANA GUSMAO'S RELEASE. THE DISCUSSION REVEALED THE FOLLOWING. JUSTICE MINISTER MULADI TELEPHONED XANANA GUSMAO LATE SEPTEMBER 5 AND INFORMED HIM THAT HIS RELEASE ORDER WOULD BE SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 6, AND HE WOULD BE SENT BY PLANE TO EAST TIMOR ON SEPTEMBER 7 TO BE TURNED OVER TO UNAMET. XANANA TURNED DOWN THESE ARRANGEMENTS, NOTING THAT HIS PURPOSE IN GOING TO EAST TIMOR WOULD BE TO MEET WITH HIS PEOPLE, WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE ALL AGREED IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE TO SEND XANANA TO EAST TIMOR UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES THERE, AND IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO HEAD THIS OFF.

14. (C) THE UK AMBASSADOR HAD AGREED TO OFFER HOSPITALITY TO XANANA AT HIS RESIDENCE, WHERE HE WOULD BE MORE SECURE. IT WAS NOT KNOWN YET WHETHER THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO XANANA'S RELEASE IN JAKARTA. XANANA AND HIS LAWYER WERE SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH MULADI IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 6, WHERE IT WAS HOPED THIS COULD BE CLARIFIED. (I LATER LEARNED THAT UNAMET JAKARTA REPRESENTATIVE TAMRAT SAMUEL JOINED THIS MEETING). UK MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOHN BATTLE IS ARRIVING IN JAKARTA THIS EVENING (SEPT 6) AND THE UK AMBASSADOR PLANNED TO TAKE HIM IMMEDIATELY TO CALL ON XANANA AT 10 P.M. THE BRITISH HOPED TO GET PERMISSION FOR XANANA TO BE RELEASED THE SAME EVENING SO HE COULD SPEND THE NIGHT AT THE BRITISH RESIDENCE (BECAUSE OF CONCERNS ABOUT HIS SECURITY AT HIS PRESENT LOCATION).

15. (C) IF IT TRANSPIRED THAT THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT AGREE TO XANANA'S RELEASE IN JAKARTA (WHETHER TONIGHT OR TOMORROW), THE UK AMBASSADOR (OR BATTLE) WOULD TELEPHONE FOREIGN MINISTER ALATAS AND INDICATE THAT THE BRITISH WOULD IMMEDIATELY MAKE PUBLIC THE FACT OF THEIR OFFER. FOREIGN SECRETARY ROBIN COOK HAD APPROVED THIS GAME PLAN.

16. (C) AMBASSADOR JAMSHEED MARKER SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED THAT IF IT APPEARED THAT THE INDONESIANS WERE INSISTENT ON RETURNING XANANA TO EAST TIMOR, HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ASK THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO TELEPHONE HABIBIE TO TRY TO PREVENT THIS. HE

AUTHORIZED THE UK AMBASSADOR TO INFORM ALATAS OF THIS IF NECESSARY.

17. (C) AMBASSADOR MARKER INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT HABIBIE HAD INFORMED HIM OF HIS PLAN TO RELEASE XANANA AND TURN HIM OVER TO UNAMET IN BAUCAU ON SEPTEMBER 7 OR 8. MARKER TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT UNAMET WAS NOT WILLING TO PLAY THIS ROLE SINCE IT COULD HARDLY INSURE XANANA'S SECURITY WHEN IT COULD NOT ASSURE ITS OWN SECURITY UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT WHEN XANANA WAS RELEASED, HE SHOULD BE FREE TO GO WHERE HE CHOSE. THE PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED THAT THIS WAS AN ISSUE THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED (THIS LED TO TAMRAT SAMUEL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING WITH MULADI).

ROY